

Application No.: 10/811,880

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REMARKS

SEP 13 2007

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated June 13, 2007, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 12, 13, 16, and 23 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 11, 12, 22, and 23 include allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 12, 13, 16, and 23 to address the alleged insufficient antecedent issues in these claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under § 112 is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 7, 10, 13 – 18, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,106,292 to Moon. Claims 8, 9, 19, and 20 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Moon in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,046 to Hebiguchi. Applicants traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, among other things, a display comprising a plurality of stages of first dummy shift register circuits arranged on the operation starting side of said plurality of stages of shift register circuits and not connected to said drain line. Such a configuration may prevent display irregularities from being generated in an area corresponding to the second-stage shift register circuit from the operation start side.

Moon appears to disclose a dummy shift register. However, Moon does not disclose a plurality of stages of first dummy shift register circuits arranged as recited in claim 1. The

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Examiner appears to acknowledge this deficiency, asserting that it would be obvious to modify Moon to include the use of a plurality of first dummy shift registers arranged on the operation starting side of a plurality of stages of shift register circuits and not connected to a drain line. However, even if not connecting the plurality of stages of first dummy shift registers to the drain line were obvious (though Applicants assert that such a feature would not have been obvious in view of Moon), Moon does not even disclose a plurality of stages of first dummy shift register circuits. Rather, Moon discloses only a single dummy shift register (see Figure 16).

As recited on page 7, line 25, through page 8, line 8 of the pending application, "in the case where a display is fabricated by connecting the shift register circuits described above in a plurality of stages and connecting the plurality of stages of shift register circuits to the pixels constituting a display section, display irregularities may occur in an area corresponding to the drain line connected to the second-stage one, from the operation start side, of the plurality of stages of shift register circuits of the display section." It appears that Moon, which has only a single dummy shift register circuit, would exhibit the same problems.

Furthermore, the Examiner indicates in the Office Action that "M2 is a first transistor", "M1 is a second transistor" and "M6 is a third transistor". The Examiner also indicates therein that a "third transistor (M6) for turning off said first transistor (M2) when said second transistor (M1) is in on state" is disclosed in column 15, lines 1 – 20 of Moon. However, Moon describes that when "the scan start signal STV is inputted to the pull-down driver part 174, the transistor is turned on, and the voltage of the fourth node N4 is dropped to substantially the first power voltage Voff. Since the transistor size of the transistor M7 is about 16 times larger than that of the transistor M6, the fourth node N4 maintains substantially the first power voltage Voff even though the transistor M6 is turned on. Accordingly, the pull-down transistor M2 is turned off."

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(See column 15, lines 13 – 21 of Moon). Thus, a transistor for turning off the first transistor (corresponding to M2) of the present invention is not M6 (indicated as a third transistor of the present application) but M7. Thus, the Examiner's characterization is incorrect.

Claim 13 recites a display comprising a dummy shift register circuits arranged on at least the side opposite to the operation starting side of said plurality of stages of shift register circuits and not connected to said drain line. Thus, claim 13 is also patentable over Moon for at least the same reasons described above in relation to claim 1.

Accordingly, as each and every limitation must be disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art references in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (see, M.P.E.P. § 2143.03), and Moon fails to disclose at least the features described above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 are patentable over Moon.

Claims 2 – 12 and 13 – 23 depend from one of the independent claims. Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as the independent claims are patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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